

REMARKS

Claims 46 and 47 have been amended to correct clerical errors. Claims 46 and 47 are based on the procedure shown in Figure 6 of the application. New claims 48-55 are added by this amendment. These claims expand upon claims 46 and 47 and are based on the procedures shown in Figures 3, 4, 7, and 9 of the application. The application now includes claims 46-55.

Attached hereto is a verified translation of the of Japanese Priority document 2000-098830 (the claim which the present application claims priority to). The filing date of Japanese Priority document 2000-098830 of March 31, 2000. Figure 2 of the translation corresponds to Figure 3 of the instant application. Figure 3 of the translation corresponds to Figure 4 of the instant application. Figure 5 corresponds to Figure 6 of the instant patent application. Figure 6 of the translation corresponds to Figure 7 of the instant application. Figure 8 of the translation corresponds to Figure 9 of the instant application. The substance of all of these figures is fully described in the translation. As such, the application has a foreign priority of March 31, 2000.

U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0042733 to Lesandrini has a filing date of February 22, 2001 with a claim of priority to a provisional application filed October 11, 2000. Thus, the earliest effective filing date of Lesandrini is after the priority date of the present application, and all rejections which employ Lesandrini should be hereby withdrawn.

The amendments to the claims distinguish U.S. Patent 6,556,992 to Barney. As such, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

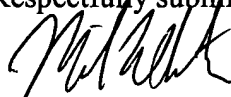
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 46-55 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary

for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael E. Whitham', is written over the typed name.

Michael E. Whitham

Reg. No. 32,635

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190

Tel. (703) 787-9400
Fax. (703) 787-7557

Customer No.: 30743